

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes. Had I been present for roll call vote number 236, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended on H. Res. 512 Calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws, I would have voted Yea. Had I been present for roll call vote number 237, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended on S. 46, HBCU PARTNERS Act, I would have voted Yea.

HONORING MAYOR ELIZABETH PATTERSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Elizabeth Patterson, and to celebrate her retirement from the City of Benicia after 17 years of public service.

Born in Los Angeles, Mayor Patterson has lived in Benicia since 1983. Prior to her time in local government, she worked for California's Department of Water Resources as an environmental scientist for three decades and served as the Executive Director of the Partnership for Regional Livability on the White House Task Force on Livable Communities under President Clinton. In 2003, Mayor Patterson was elected to the Benicia City Council, where she served for four years before being elected as Mayor in 2007.

Throughout her years of leadership in Benicia, Mayor Patterson has championed environmental preservation initiatives. She was instrumental in the creation of Benicia's Community Sustainability Commission, which will promote environmentally friendly economic development for years to come. Mayor Patterson has also played a vital role in enacting Benicia's Water Smart Program, both conserving water and lowering costs for the community. Beyond her commitment to sustainability, Mayor Patterson has been a leader in promoting cultural advancement and preservation in Benicia by creating Benicia's Arts and Cultural Commission and increasing the number of designated historical properties.

Madam Speaker, Mayor Patterson is an outstanding public servant with a deep dedication to her community. Even in retirement, she plans to continue fighting for environmental protections. Mayor Patterson exemplifies true leadership and integrity, and she will have a lasting impact on the City of Benicia. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MICHAEL J. PETYO, SR.

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Michael J. Petyo, who passed in July at the age of 91.

Michael was a Minnesotan, and a resident of Belle Plaine and Coon Rapids. He proudly served as a Sergeant in the United States Air Force and was a veteran of the Korean War.

Michael and his wife of 67 years, Dorothy, raised a beautiful family with six children, sixteen grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

On July 11, Michael was interred at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, in a monument to his service to our state and nation.

My thoughts are with the Petyo family, who have suffered a great loss: that of a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Michael's dedication to service for the public good is enshrined in his legacy and his family.

IN HONOR OF TERRI COOK

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Terri Cook, an outstanding public servant, as she retires from her position as City Clerk for the City of Belmont. Terri was elected as clerk in 2002 and served as an elected official until this year when the position transitioned to an appointed one.

City clerks are an integral part of the operation of a city. Clerks must keep accurate records of city council meetings and votes as well as minutes and votes from numerous commissions and advisory boards. The outcome of lawsuits over city actions sometimes hinges on accurate records, as does the eligibility of the city for federal and state funding. Elections to the city council or to other elected positions are operated by the clerk's office, and Terri enjoys serving as an authority for new candidates.

Terri has many other responsibilities as a clerk. She was the liaison to the group that created the Veteran's Memorial in Twin Pines Park, and she helped her friend, the late councilmember Eric Reed, fulfill this dream of a memorial before his own untimely passing. She took over the annual veteran's recognition and has been its lead ever since. She also worked with the city to adopt the 101st Airborne Division, I-327th Infantry C Company based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Among other activities, she helped ship nonperishable goods to these troops during overseas deployments.

Terri's family has lived in Belmont since 1931 and her priorities both as a candidate

and volunteer reflect her love of the city. Her career in public service spans a remarkable 37 years as she served as an administrative assistant in the San Carlos schools, as a member of the Belmont Planning Commission from 1993 to 1997, and then as a Belmont City Council member from 1997 to 2002. She was mayor in 1999.

As a civic activist she opposed construction of a massive, double-deck overpass at the intersection of the El Camino and Ralston Avenue, and supported preservation of Twin Pines Park. In her volunteer work she served as an open space task force member, a member of the board of the Belmont Park Boosters, an historical society member, as an advisor to the schools on facility renovation, and as a member of her homeowner's association.

When she ran for the city council, this lifelong resident focused on quality of life issues. One priority was clearly stated in her candidate's statement: traffic, traffic, traffic.

To relieve congestion, she supported a grade separation at the Caltrain tracks and Ralston Avenue, a project that subsequently came to pass, and the need to protect parks and open spaces. She also supported rebuilding a fire station, developing a town hall format for council meetings so that the public could interact with the council in a more productive manner, and a revision of the city's sign ordinance to reduce visual clutter. As a planning commissioner and city council member, she supported the renovation or creation of many tax-generating businesses such as a local auto dealership, a new grocery store, approval of several hotels, and the maintenance of Belmont's small-town atmosphere. While I was a member of the state legislature, Terri would sometimes call. I always took the call and often heeded her insightful advice.

Madam Speaker, Terri Cook looks upon the community as her family and her dedication to the city and its future is legendary. We wish her well in the years ahead. All who love a community eventually get to pass along the reins of leadership to the next generation. As Terri Cook does so, she will leave her community in good order and with much of her imprint upon its features. She will long be remembered and admired by all of us. This fond remembrance is a lasting testament to a remarkable local leader.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 228.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.